

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 ACDA-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /066 W

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O P 191113Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2296

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDEASTFOR STATUS

REF : MANAMA 0827

1. IN ANTICIPATION POSSIBLE RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED REFTEL, I SCHEDULED AND CARRIED THROUGH WITH APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MORNING JULY 19. WE SPARRED AROUND A BIT, ON "PRIVATE BASIS", ABOUT MODALITIES GOB'S NOTIFYING US OF ITS DECISION ON TWO YEAR LIMIT ON NAVY PRESENCE. HE IS VERY KEEN FOR GOB TO PUT SOMETHING IN WRITING RESCINDING 1973 TERMINATION NOTICE AND INCLINED TO USE THAT DOCUMENT AS VEHICLE FOR GIVING US THE TWO YEAR LIMITATION WARNING. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO FOLLOW ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURE OUTLINED MANAMA REFTEL, TRYING TO GET GOB TO GIVE US BRIEF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR LETTER OF REASSURANCES CLOSING NEGOTIATIONS AND, IN THAT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, INDICATING RESCINDING OF 1973 TERMINATION NOTICE. TRICK WILL BE TO KEEP GOB FROM MENTIONING THE TWO YEAR LIMITATION IN SUCH A DOCUMENT AND IN A MANNER FURTHER LIMITING BOTH PARTIES FUTURE FLEXIBILITY RE NAVY PRESENCE.

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2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE IS AFRAID HE WOULD HAVE TO

ACCOMPANY CROWN PRINCE SHAIKH HAMAD ON THREE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SYRIA BEGINNING EARLY JULY 20 AND PERHAPS GO ON WITH HIM TO JORDAN. FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED THAT, IF HE DOES HAVE TO GO TO SYRIA, NO ONE WILL BE ACTING IN HIS BEHALF ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION AND, HENCE, FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE DELAYED UNTIL HIS RETURN. IF HE GOES, AND IN VIEW OF TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT HERE JULY 23, WE ARE VIRTUALLY OUT OF ACTION ON FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL JULY 26. PRIME MINISTER UNEXPECTEDLY HAS DELAYED HIS RETURN FROM LONDON UNTIL JULY 23.

3. I QUIZZED FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT RESULTS OF GULF SUMMIT WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NAVY QUESTION. HE SAID DISCUSSIONS WERE MOSTLY PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS PLAN TO GET TOGETHER FURTHER AT UNGA. AT MEETING IRAN SAID IT TOTALLY FLEXIBLE ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH GULF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE FORMALIZED INCLUDING WILLINGNESS TO HAVE FORMAL PACT. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IRAQ DID NOT WANT TO GO AS FAR AS FORMAL PACT. ACCORDING TO GOB FOREIGN MINISTER, HE ARGUED THAT SERIOUS DISCUSSION SECURITY COOPERATION IS PREMATURE UNTIL CERTAIN PROBLEMS, SUCH AS KUWAIT/IRAQ BORDER, ARE SETTLED. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID U.S. NAVY PRESENCE WAS NOT FORMALLY DISCUSSED. HE TALKED WITH BOTH KHALATBARI AND PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL ABOUT IRANIAN AND SAUDI POSITIONS, EXPLAINING HOW HARMFUL RECENT COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN TO GOB'S EFFORTS TO RETAIN MIDDLE EAST FORCE. FOREIGN MINISTER GOT CLEAR MESSAGE THAT, WHILE NEITHER IRAN NOR SAUDI ARABIA IS EXERCISED ABOUT OR PREPARED TO SERIOUSLY OPPOSE U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN GULF OPERATING OUT OF BAHRAIN, NEITHER GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED NAVY PRESENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED, THUS, "ALL THE PRESSURE HAS TO BE BORNE BY BAHRAIN", EXPLAINING ONCE AGAIN THAT THIS IS WHY GOB FEELS IT MUST PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A TWO YEAR TIME LIMIT HAS BEEN SET ON THE "RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT".
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAMA00830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750250-0737
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750739/aaaabinu.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANAMA 0827
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : MIDEASTFOR STATUS
TAGS: MARR, BA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006